

Good afternoon, I am a resident of Guilford, CT. I have been following the latest news that the legislature is actually considering legalizing a hunt of connecticut's black bears! This is definitely a step in the wrong direction for our state, as we are considered on the forefront in the nation when it comes to honoring our wildlife and environment. I live near westwoods and there are bears in my community. It's often the discussion on our community website on facebook and people take pleasure in photographing and discussing various wildlife we have spotted.

As studies show, there are many ways to reduce human/ bear conflict, but killing is NOT one of them.

In communities with effective "Bear Smart" programs, interactions are drastically reduced. As a Connecticut resident I want humane resolutions to interactions with wildlife. We do not want to hunt our native black bears.

DEEP has the ability to offer more education programs and set up "bear smart" programs before they pull the trigger on our bears. Please support these proven strategies and oppose the bear hunt in SB 1148.

Further, please oppose SB 1149 Eliminate All Restrictions for Sunday Hunting on Public and Private Lands.

I spend many weekends walking my dogs with my children, and I deserve at least one day a week to walk in peace, not nervously worrying about being killed by a stray bullet.

Michele von Stein
Guilford, CT